

**From:** Doug LaRue  
**To:** microsoft.atr  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:45pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I have over 15 years of experience in the electronics industry and I find it very difficult to see Microsoft get away with impeding progress every year, with producing inferior product, with jeopardizing our national security, with outright control of how we communicate. And it's not stopping there. Today they, the Microsoft Corporation is selling a computer system at a price lower than the cost of production and calling it a "game console". This "game console", running Microsoft Windows operating system, is the latest effort to control not only how we communicate but what we see and hear through our entertainment systems. They have used constantly changing file formats of it's office applications to keep out competition to the point that PLAIN TEXT is about the only common denominator left for written/electronic communications and soon they will use their billions in illegally obtained funds to finance the control of the media formats brought into our homes via cableTV and telephone lines. They used constantly changing operating system API's to make sure the competition in the application market was months behind them that existing product stopped working when a "new" upgrade to the operating system was released. I could go on and on about how they controlled the market and systematically eliminated competition without the consumer being able to make a REAL choice.

As you can tell, I don't think the current "settlement" addresses much of what harm has been done by the Microsoft Corporation. I'm amazed that there could be such a settlement without the majority of the States. After all the States were going to include Microsoft Office and applications in their own case but agreed to drop that for a combined effort with the DOJ. Another monopoly issue was dropped to get this PROBLEM behind us( the people of the USA ) and move on. But then the DOJ settles on it's own without the States? A settlement with no teeth no less.

Just look at Section III.A.2. It allows the Microsoft Corporation to retaliate against any OEM it wants to that ships/sells personal computers which contain a competing operating system but not one of the Microsoft Corporations operating systems.

There is almost nothing in this "settlement" which restores competition and PREVENTS the Microsoft Corporation from continuing is behavior in the personal computer, business server, home entertainment, and handheld computing markets. I'm sure there are others too.

The damage the Microsoft Corporation has done has actually reduced our productivity. The IBM Corporation shipped an operating system back in 1991 which used as it's desktop foundation a technology called CORBA. The operating system was years ahead of the Microsoft Corporation in it's design and function. Where is it today? Why were so many companies "attacked" my Microsoft Corporate employees to the point that billions of dollars could be brought to bear on them if they continued to support the superior products from the IBM Corporation? Today it is Linux and PalmOS. What about the fact that Microsoft built it's own 3D graphics system even though there was an industry standard called OpenGL? It took them more than 6 years to get something close to OpenGL's capabilities but now again, they eliminated competition because the Microsoft Corporations 3D graphics systems ONLY RUN ON MICROSOFT operating

systems and is incompatible with OpenGL. Reinventing the wheel and then only allowing the new wheel to fit one buggy/cart is NOT progress.

Where is the progress if all the Microsoft Corporation does is make products/systems which will only run on their operating systems? There is a well known term for this in the computer industry. It's called:

EMBRACE / EXTEND / EXTINGUISH

The proposed settlement does NOT solve the problem or fix what damage was done.  
IMHO.

Kind regards,  
Doug

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